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PROFESSOR ROBERT A. MILLIKAN, of the University of Chicago, delivered the "Thomas Lectures" at Richmond College in April. The general topic was "The New Physics." In his first lecture Dr. Millikan recounted some of the important recent discoveries in the field of radioactivity and X-rays and discussed the significance of these facts to modern science and life. The second lecture was given to a description of some of the properties of the electron, and the methods by which these properties had been discovered.

DIRECTOR JOHN F. HAYFORD, of the College of Engineering of Northwestern University, addressed the engineering sub-division of the Chicago Association of Commerce on Friday evening, May 14, on the subject "Chicago as an Engineering Center."

PROFESSOR LOUIS KAHLENBERG, of the University of Wisconsin, delivered the annual address before Phi Lambda Upsilon, the honorary chemical society of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, on May 13. The subject was "A Neglected Principle of Chemistry and some of its Applications."

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE trust estate of \$3,250,000 left by Miss Elizabeth Thompson, will on the death of her brother and sister be equally divided among the following institutions: The Children's Aid Society, the New York Association for the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor, the New York Historical Society, the Society of the New York Hospital, the Presbyterian Hospital and Columbia University.

THE Michigan legislature has appropriated \$350,000 for the erection of a new university library building for the University of Michigan.

THE James Buchanan Brady Urological Institute of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, made possible through Mr. Brady's gift of \$600,000, was formally opened on May 4. Among those who made speeches were Dr. Hugh H. Young, head of the institute, and Dr. William H. Welch.

DR. THOMAS ORDWAY, of the Harvard Medical School, has accepted the deanship of the

Albany Medical College. Dr. Ordway was formerly professor of pathology in the medical school of which he now becomes dean.

G. V. CORSON, now specializing in dairy bacteriology in the University of Berne, Switzerland, has been appointed instructor in pathological and dairy bacteriology at the Oregon Agricultural College.

DR. E. F. MALONE, of the department of anatomy, University of Cincinnati, has been promoted to be associate professor of anatomy.

DR. ERNEST LINWOOD WALKER, formerly chief of the biological laboratory of the Federal Bureau of Science, and chief of the department of medical zoology at the University of the Philippines, Manila, has been appointed associate professor of tropical medicine at the George Williams Hooper Foundation for Medical Research, University of California.

PROFESSOR R. C. LODGE, who has been this year at the University of Minnesota, has been appointed professor of philosophy and psychology at the University of Alberta.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### BALANCED SOLUTIONS AND NUTRITIVE SOLUTIONS

MR. TRUE's article on "Antagonism and Balanced Solutions"<sup>1</sup> closes with the following remarks.

In both sea water and the more or less dilute nutrient solutions present in the soil, normal life is sustained, as a rule, only in mixtures of proper proportions and necessary concentration. Since salts are required in both cases to overcome the harmful action of pure water, as well as that of the salts themselves, there seems to be no reason to seek to limit the use of the term "balanced solutions" in the manner suggested by Loeb and Osterhout. Unless we admit that malnutrition due to a deficiency in nutrient salts is a form of toxicity excited by the substances present, we can hardly escape the alternative proposition that the missing salts are injurious *in absentia*.

Since the writer is responsible for the introduction of the term physiologically balanced salt solutions,<sup>2</sup> he may be pardoned for pointing out that in his opinion neither of the

<sup>1</sup> SCIENCE, N. S., XLI., No. 1061, p. 653, 1915.

<sup>2</sup> Loeb, *Am. Jour. Physiol.*, III., p. 445, 1900.